

## Sample Court Building Color Codes

Professional emergency responders advise that, as much as possible, communication during an emergency should be clear, understandable, and simple. Presently, state and local courts use different warning systems and language to advise court building occupants what to do during an emergency. The decision whether to stay or leave a court building during an emergency often can be the difference between life and death.

Realizing that clear communication and understandable instructions are vital, courts have been advised by the NCSC to use universal color codes and practice drills to augment their existing evacuation procedures. Using the same color-coded language in every court building will ensure that employees will understand and react properly to emergencies.

- **Code Yellow – Situational Awareness**
  - Cautionary: Be aware and prepared to react to danger.
  - A dangerous situation may be developing in the court building.
- **Code Red – Imminent Danger**
  - Stay put! An active shooter is in the court building or there is a hostage situation.
  - Get into an emergency protective posture or in a safe haven.
- **Code Green – Emergency – Evacuate Building**
  - Listen to instructions from your floor warden.
  - Report to your assigned location away from court building.
- **Code Blue – Emergency Team Responding**
  - An emergency team is responding to or is in the court building.
  - Wait for further instructions from officials.
- **Code White – Administrative/Informational**
  - Return to normal operations.
  - All is well.